



CHRISTMAS

WINTER 2015 EDITION

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...A LITTLE DIFFERENT

WE ALL LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN A CLASSIC BRITISH TRADITION AT CHRISTMAS - decorating the tree, hanging stockings by the fire or suspending big bunches of mistletoe. But we also like to seek out new ideas, explore new places, and sometimes just do something a bit different – that's how new traditions start...

This year we were inspired by winter picnics. Even though it's cold outside, with some stylish

layering, a decent winter coat, delicious food and good company, you could have this year's most memorable party on your hands. We'll be in Windsor and Bristol with our own Crew picnics this Christmas so come and join us; see page 14 for more details.

Or how about an adventure somewhere new? Our favourite things to do in London are on page 4 and our top tips for exploring Britain's loveliest market towns are on page 8. But if you just want to get away from it all, why not escape and enjoy a

weekend in Stockholm (page 6), or have a relaxed retreat closer to home (page 5)?

Let us help you make Christmas easy. We've selected some of our best gift ideas for you on page 10, and we've hand-picked some of our favourite suppliers of delicious treats to lighten the load of the preparations this year.

CHRISTMAS, MAKE YOURS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR.



HIGHLAND JACKET
SPENCER SLIM LEG JEAN
WINTER DELAMERE JACKET
BENWICK TROUSER
WATERPROOF COUNTRY BOOT





A VERY CREW CHRISTMAS

THIS YEAR, CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WITH A DIFFERENCE
From the quirky to the unexpected, let Crew inspire your Christmas entertainment



LONDON FUN

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

The Geffrye Museum, housed in beautiful Grade 1 listed almshouses in London's Hackney, transports you through the ages. During Christmas, the rooms are decorated to show how families made their houses ready for the festive period, from the 17th century, to the entertainingly recognisable 1970s. At Dennis Severs' Georgian home in Spitalfields, the smell of roaring fires and baking bring the 18th and 19th century to life. With an unfinished game of cards on the table and rumpled bed linen on the four poster bed, rooms appear as if their inhabitants left moments before you arrived. Book a 'Silent Night' visit to walk around the candlelit house in silence for a truly atmospheric Christmas.

GET YOUR SKATES ON

With Frost Fairs on a frozen River Thames dating back to the 16th century, London has a long history of ice-skating. One of the most spectacular outdoor rinks is at Somerset House. At night, the rink is framed by this elegantly lit setting with the ice illuminated by the lights on a rather grand Christmas tree. It's the perfect backdrop for a family photo.

SILENT NIGHT - AND DAY

Spend Christmas Day exploring London's highlights without any crowds. Meet before dawn near the London Eye for an eerily peaceful 10 mile walk with 24 others over 10 hours led by City of Westminster guide, Pete Berthoud. Or step back in history with London Walks, exploring nooks and crannies with your guide and fellow walkers through the eyes of Samuel Pepys or Charles Dickens.

ESCAPES AND ADVENTURES

The run up to Christmas can be a busy time with so much to organise and plan. Why not leave it all behind and retreat for a weekend away? We've chosen the best places to get away from it all.

FOR TOTAL RELAXATION

Feel like a guest in a private country house deep in the New Forest. The Pig has a laid-back atmosphere with shabby chic décor. Curl up on a velvet sofa in front of an open fire with a board game. Or feel even more relaxed with a massage in the Potting Shed at the bottom of the garden. At the end of your stay, buy a sustainably grown Christmas tree at the nearby New Forest Christmas Fair.

FOR A LARGE GROUP

The Towers in Conwy is a vast gothic-style chateau that sleeps 20, and features a hand-

decorated domed cinema room, lantern-lit viewing tower, games room and even a nine-hole putting green. Situated just a stroll from the beach, this holiday home offers spectacular views of Snowdonia, the Isle of Anglesey and Puffin Island. It was built in 1872 as a harbour master's mansion although the harbour was never developed. (Be sure to nab the bedroom with the four poster bed.)

FOR AVOIDING THE WASHING UP

A private butler and chef are at your disposal when renting Foxhill Manor House, set on a 400-acre woodland estate in the Cotswolds. This Grade-II listed Arts and Crafts country home has eight rooms; book one or book all of them, and have the ballroom big enough for 80, all to yourselves. Move over Downton Abbey, there's a new manor stealing our hearts this season.





48 HOURS IN STOCKHOLM

A DECEMBER ESCAPE

WHERE TO STAY

MISS CLARA BY NOBIS

*Sveavägen 48, Stockholm 111 34
+46 8 440 6700 designhotels.com*

What was once The Ateneum School for Girls is now the Miss Clara hotel, conveniently located in the lively Norrmalm district.

This art nouveau building is Swedish minimalism at its finest. Book an Etage suite, set in the converted prayer hall with spectacular church-like windows.



WHERE TO GO

FOTOGRAFISKA

*Stadsgårdshallen 22, Stockholm 116 45
+46 8 509 005 00 www.fotografiska.eu/en*

Södermalm, with its vintage shops, art galleries, craft beer bars and intimate cafés, is laid-back and bohemian. Visit an exhibition at the museum Fotografiska. Housed in an old warehouse its restaurants windows have wonderful panoramic views of the harbour.



WHERE TO EAT

PELIKAN

*Blekingsgatan 40, Stockholm 116 62
+46 8 556 090 90 www.pelikan.se*

No visit to Sweden is complete without eating meatballs. Pelikan, a high-ceilinged beer hall setting with wood panelled walls, is famed for these. Try the meatballs with lingonberries and pickled cucumber, and wash it down with ice-cold schnapps.

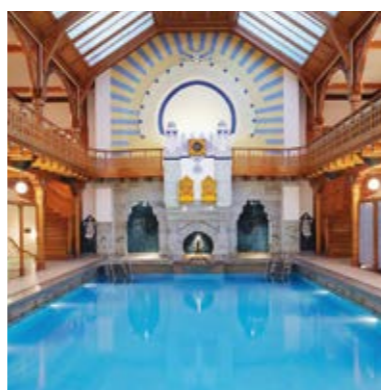


WHERE TO DRINK

HÄKTET VÄNSTER

*Hornsgatan 82, Stockholm 118 21
+46 70-534 45 59*

Even managing to find the unmarked doorway to this hidden cocktail bar is no guarantee of admittance. If there's no room, the door stays shut. But if you do manage to access this prohibition-era bar in a former prison, you can choose from a fine selection of cocktails.

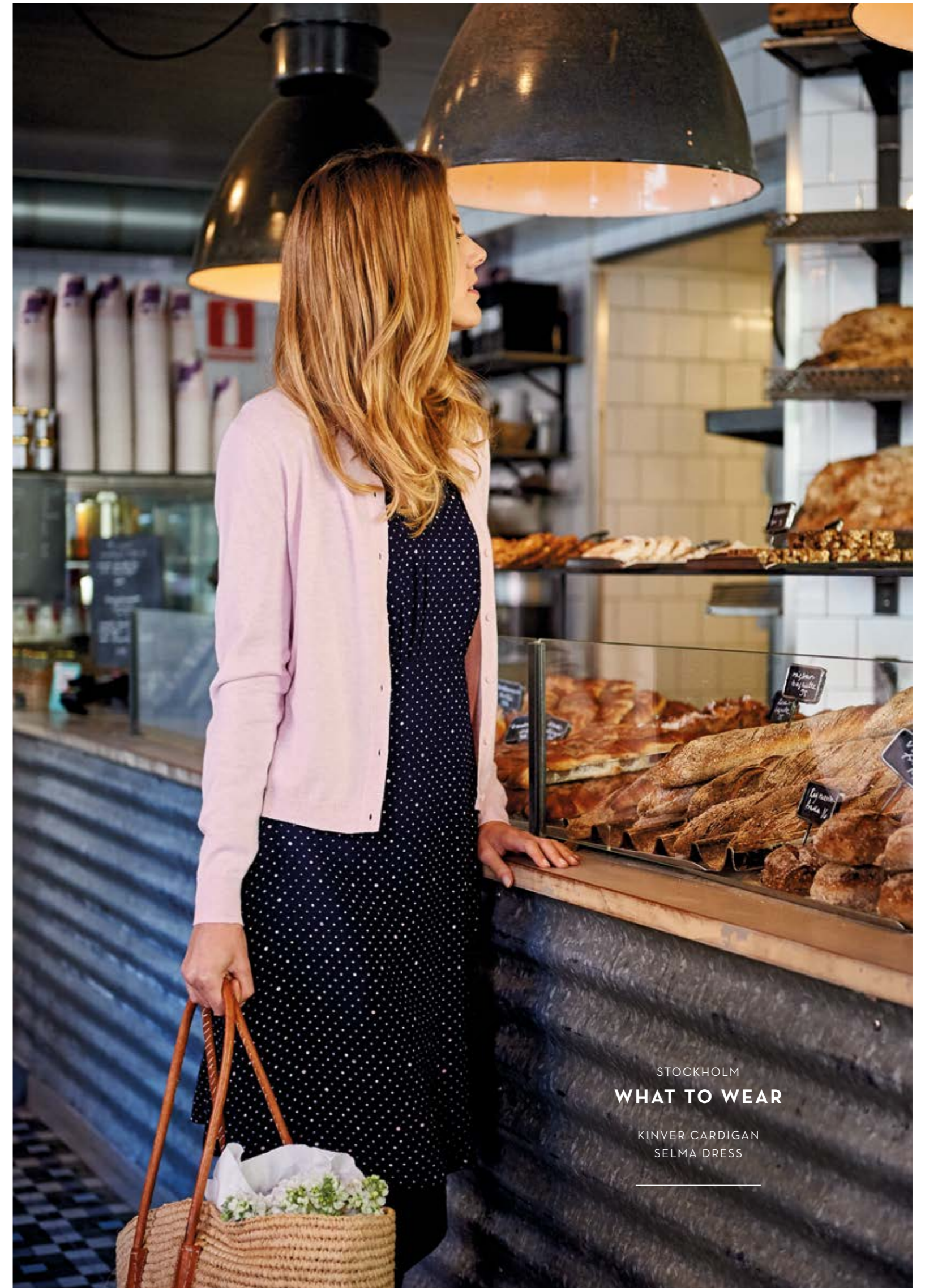


WHAT TO DO

STUREBADET

*Sturegallerian 36, Stockholm 114 46
+46 8 545 015 00 www.sturebadet.se*

Sturebadet Spa, once the haunt of Greta Garbo, dates back to the 1890s. Indulge in a Turkish bathing ritual then gaze over Stockholm's rooftops while taking afternoon tea beside the crackling fire in the banquet hall upstairs.



STOCKHOLM WHAT TO WEAR

KINVER CARDIGAN
SELMA DRESS



FAIRS & SQUARES

THERE'S SOMETHING DEEPLY COMFORTING ABOUT A MARKET TOWN, with weekly stalls filled with local produce. At Christmas, Britain's loveliest market towns come alive with twinkling street lights, the scent of mulled wine and a fine tree in the square; perfect for Christmas shopping or a weekend break in December.

WHAT TO WEAR

AINTREE JACKET
WITTERINGS SHIRT
VINTAGE CHINO
NUBUCK BELT



BATH

The Georgian architecture and Roman remains alone make Bath a lovely place, but at Christmas with wooden chalets set against the abbey backdrop and carols in the night air it's idyllic. Don't miss the vintage knick-knacks and handcrafted stocking-fillers at the Bath Artisan Market.



Bath is food paradise: visit The Fine Cheese Co. for your Stilton truckle and be tempted by their pistachio macarons and famous onion chutney. Or stock up on locally made bread and brownies at tiny Best of British deli-café. EXPERIENCE THIS: *Drift gently over Bath with a Champagne balloon ride for some breathtaking views. Wrap up well.*

WINCHESTER

Winding alleys, a gothic cathedral, a medieval setting and ice-skating outdoors create what's hailed as Britain's Christmas capital. Stock up your larder with cheeses and charcuterie at the local Farmer's Market. For presents with a twist, pick up an antique map at Kingsgate Books & Prints, a pair of 1920s' cufflinks at the Vintage Hound or some Totally Twisted Nose Gin & Watercress truffles at Chococo - we recommend ordering the hot chocolate, it's incredibly delicious.



BOOK THIS: *The Michelin-starred Black Rat restaurant has its very own forager who brings the most seasonal and fresh products available.*

SALISBURY

Salisbury is a cathedral city with shops in timber-framed buildings. Locals mark the start of the festive period with a procession on 26th November in which children carry willow and paper lanterns shaped as angels, snowmen and stars. Music groups and choirs perform almost daily on the bandstand in the Guildhall Square; singing along can prove thirsty work, so head off to Salisbury's oldest (and supposedly haunted) hostelry: the Haunch of Venison, or visit The Wyndham Arms for its Hop Back beers.



TUCK INTO THIS: *Climb the 332 steps of the cathedral's spire on a Twilight Tower Tour for spectacular city views rounded off with a cream tea in the Refectory.*

CIRENCESTER

When there's a whole shop devoted to Agas, you know this is a town packed with treats. Cirencester is all honey-coloured stone buildings and cobbled courtyards with a striking church. If snowy, the nearby amphitheatre is a perfect sledging spot. Where to order the turkey? Jesse Smith in Black Jack Street - a traditional butcher who sources all meat produce within twenty miles. Just a few doors down is the irresistibly named chocolatier, Lick the Spoon.

WATCH THIS: *Wander along to New Brewery Arts to look for gifts and see the weavers and glassblowers at work.*



CANTERBURY

In Chaucer's day, pilgrims trekked to Canterbury to visit the cathedral: it's still a wonderful destination today with much to offer. After admiring Britain's oldest stained windows in the Chapter House, tuck into a toasted crumpet at Tiny Tim's Tearoom. Browse the stalls in Whitefriars Square before heading off for further treats at The Sugar Boy with its jars of old-fashioned sweets. No winter picnic is complete without provisions from the Goods Shed: a converted railway shed with counters laden with cheeses, meats and homemade cakes.

DRINK THIS: *The Foundry is a traditional microbrewery with beers available to buy in bottles or mini kegs.*



EXETER

Exeter has something for everyone: the banks of the River Exe, cobbled Gandy Street, and a lofty Norman cathedral. Magdalen Road will tick off all your grocery needs, with a fishmonger (stocking 50 varieties daily), wine shop, bakery, and gifts galore at Maker Maker. Make a pit stop for a pot of locally sourced loose leaf tea at Tea On The Green.

BUY THIS: *The Real Food Store, a community-owned food store, stars on-site bakery Emma's Bread. Take home a slab of gingerbread.*

FOR OUR FAVOURITE STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 22

MAKE HIM MERRY

SURPRISE HIM THIS CHRISTMAS with something he won't expect. From winter woollens to leathers that get better with age, we've curated the best to make choosing the perfect piece even easier.



FENLAND MESSENGER



EDGLEY WALLET



THREE-PACK STRIPE SOCK BOX



CLASSIC LEATHER BELT



MURPHY SLIPPER



E-TOUCH GLOVE



BECKETT SCARF

MAKE HER MERRY

PUSHED FOR TIME? STRUGGLING FOR A FEW IDEAS? Don't be.
Our guide makes buying the perfect gift even easier.



CASHMERE SCARF, CASHMERE GLOVE, CASHMERE BED SOCKS



WINTER CABLE HAT & SCARF SET



SEVEN-PACK STRIPE SOCK SET



MARLOWE LEATHER POUCH



CABLE BOOT SLIPPER



CABLE HOT WATER BOTTLE & SOCK SET



BRETA BROGUE SHOE



YOU'RE INVITED

A CREW WINTER PICNIC - IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MITCH TONKS



This Christmas, we wanted to do something a little different. Taking to the great outdoors, we've been inspired by winter picnics, with great food and beautiful surroundings. So this season we're holding our own Crew picnics, with delicious food provided by Mitch Tonks and so much more.

Come join us for food demonstrations, fun children's activities, giveaways and competitions. Get refuelled for the day ahead with a hot chocolate or some mulled wine and canapés and enjoy a very Crew Christmas.

THE WINDSOR CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR: FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

Royal Windsor Racecourse 11:30am - 3:30pm

WINTER WONDERLAND: FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

The Mall, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol 11:30am - 3:30pm

MITCH TONKS



With gongs, accolades and awards under his belt, it's safe to say acclaimed restaurateur, chef and author, Mitch Tonks has an insatiable love of seafood. When not running his own restaurants, writing award-winning books or travelling to experience the food of other countries and cultures, he's a consultant for the menus on a number of restaurants and eateries, including London's Hawksmoor. From sustainability, supply to serving, what Tonks doesn't know about seafood, isn't worth knowing. He is one of the most erudite, passionate and credible voices in the industry and he will be joining us for our Winter Picnic, demonstrating some of his skills.

www.mitchtonks.co.uk



HOW TO HOST...

YOUR OWN WINTER PICNIC

Make your Christmas party a little different.

1. FIND THE PERFECT LOCATION

Choose a beach, a tranquil park or even a wooded spot where you're not too far from shelter in case the weather turns. Fresh air on a winter's day is like a tonic - it's good for the soul and even better for the body. The back garden can be a magical place to be outside - especially if it starts snowing. Don't forget to wrap up in your winter warmers!

2. KEEP WARM

No campfire? No problem. For cold weather comfort, think warm woollen blankets (plaid adds to the Christmas feel), chunky knits and hot water bottles. Layers work wonders in winter, as they'll keep you toasty without the bulk. Cook sausages on a disposable BBQ - also ideal for toasting hands and marshmallows.

3. DIY ILLUMINATIONS

A glistening tree outdoors on a winter's night always looks fairy-tale-like: place tea lights in jam jars and hang from branches with florists' wire. Stand candles in terracotta pots or make ice containers using two sizes of bucket as the mould. Flaming garden torches are perfect for the beach. They add to the festive feel and act as a heater.

4. FOOD A TRIFLE EASY

Heart-warming soups and chilli made in advance are easily portable solutions. Add some simple sustenance with jacket potatoes, kept piping hot in aluminium foil or an insulated picnic hamper. With melted butter and oodles of cheese, it's the comfort food everyone loves. Why not try one of Mitch's favourite culinary creations to make it even easier to feed your guests? Figs in Port are an

effortless pudding that taste better the longer you leave them. Spend an afternoon making them now for mouth-watering marinated figs, come Christmas.

5. THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Tea or coffee in a flask will always provide a welcome warmth, but nothing really beats a steaming cup of hot chocolate. Try adding zing with a little ground ginger and orange zest, or create a more decadent version for the adults with Grand Marnier or Cointreau. We're particularly partial to a dash of Baileys for a real treat.



FIGS IN PORT BY MITCH TONKS

- 3 FIGS
- 1 CINNAMON STICK
- 1 VANILLA POD
- SUGAR
- PORT

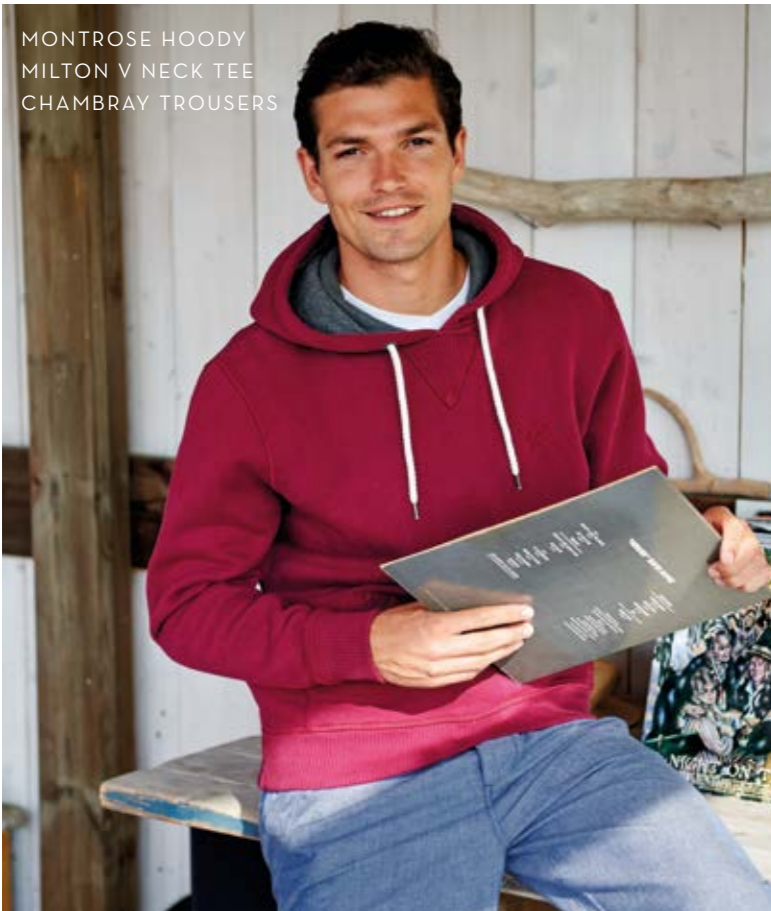
Take a sterilised kilner jar and enough figs to fill it. Cut the figs in half and place in the jar, add a cinnamon stick and a vanilla pod and 2-3 tps of sugar. Cover with port and leave for a couple of weeks, or longer if you can.

©Mitch Tonks



SLEEP ON IT

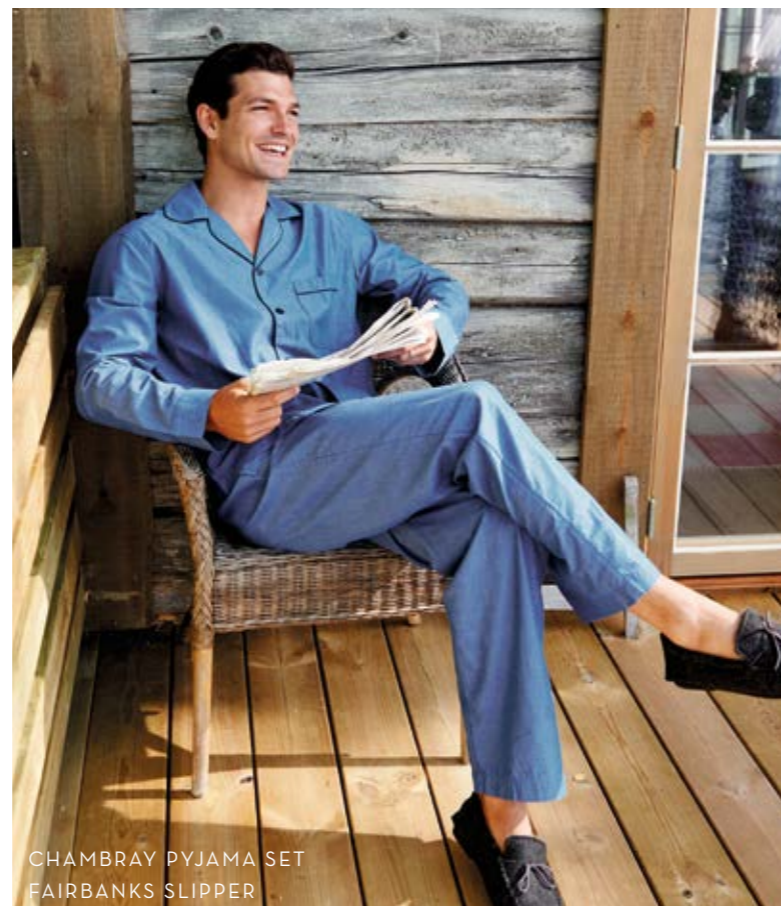
AVOID THE CHILL AND UNWIND IN STYLE with our soft-to-touch loungewear.
After all, winter is all about late lie-ins and relaxing at home in comfort.



MONTROSE HOODY
MILTON V NECK TEE
CHAMBRAY TROUSERS



SANA HOODY
PYJAMA SET



CHAMBRAY PYJAMA SET
FAIRBANKS SLIPPER

PYJAMA SET
CASHMERE BED SOCK





THE COAST AT CHRISTMAS

BRITAIN'S COASTLINE CAN BE AT ITS MOST BEAUTIFUL IN WINTER.

With vast empty stretches - perfect for kite flying - and the hypnotic sound of waves crashing, there's nothing better than taking it all in when no-one else is around.

BEST FOR SECLUSION:

BALNAKEIL BAY, SUTHERLAND

This long golden crescent-shaped beach with shell sand is actually two beaches that join together when the tide is out. The bay is a remote spot, with its derelict 17th century church and dunes that are sometimes 35 metres high. It faces west so sunsets can be spectacular; you may even see the aurora borealis at night. Visit John Lennon's holiday cottage, a croft at neighbouring Durness where he spent summers as a boy.



BEST FOR A PINT:

WALBERSWICK, SUFFOLK

Walberswick's sand dune-backed beach is a lovely spot for an hour or two with a bucket, spade and crabbing line. If you only catch tiddlers, it's an easy stroll to Southwold by crossing the Bailey Bridge over the river Blyth to buy fresh fish from the harbour huts there. The beach is just a short walk from the village where you can stop for a pint of local Adnams by an open fire at either The Bell Inn or The Anchor. Decisions, decisions.



BEST FOR RED SQUIRRELS:

FORMBY, LANCASHIRE

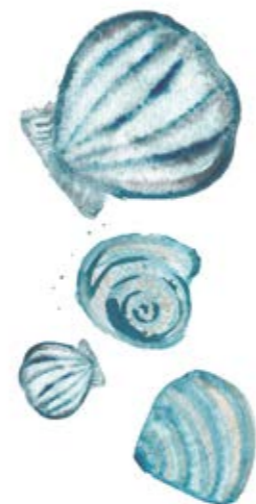
Climb the huge sand dunes at Formby - an almost perfect example of dune formation - to be rewarded by the views over Liverpool Bay, Snowdonia and the Lake District. The coast is undergoing erosion so prehistoric mud layers with human and animal footprints are often revealed after the tide has gone. The beach is surrounded by pinewoods: a National Trust sanctuary that's just one of the few places in the UK where you can spot red squirrels as pine cones are their main source of food.

BEST FOR

BEACHCOMBING:

RUNSWICK BAY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Winter storms mean plenty of treasures washed ashore, such as sea glass, driftwood and old coins. Runswick Bay, thought to be Britain's best beachcombing beach, is a shingly sand bay lined with colourful fishermen's cottages. Pack a trowel and several collecting bags then go on a hunt for pieces of jet, ammonite fossils, pretty shells and iron stone. (Some of the best fossils can be found in the base of the cliffs after heavy rain.)



Illustrations by Slaney Hopkins

BEST FOR GREY SEALS:

DONNA NOOK, LINCOLNSHIRE

Donna Nook is a windswept and unspoilt stretch of coastline with dunes and inter-tidal areas that's part of a nature reserve rich in bird life. In November and December, Donna Nook is also an amazing place to see young seal pups. Volunteer guides are on hand to answer all your questions, and a van selling tea and butties is a welcome sight after a long walk.



BEST FOR FISH & CHIPS:

GANAVAN SANDS, OBAN, ARGYLL, WEST HIGHLANDS

Look for shells on this sandy beach and admire the extensive views of the western isles. The beauty of visiting out of season is that you're more likely to nab a table at the family-owned Oban Fish and Chip Shop. We recommend the battered salt and pepper squid or local monkfish scampi. End the day with a tour of the Oban Distillery opposite the North Pier, warming up with a West Highland malt direct from the cask.



BEST FOR A LIGHTHOUSE:

WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER, KENT

A cliff top is a breathtaking place to walk along in winter, especially when it's the most south-easterly point of the UK. The well-marked route along the edge of the North Downs takes you towards South Foreland lighthouse. In recent years, the lighthouse has opened out of season on New Year's Day with cream teas provided in the former lighthouse keeper's cottage: Mrs. Knott's Tearoom. But why stay a few hours when you can stay a whole week? Rent East Cottage, the National Trust property adjoining the lighthouse, to spend days flying kites and evenings watching ships sail to France.



OUR FAVOURITE COASTAL RESORT

St Ives



STAY HERE
TREVOSE HARBOUR HOUSE
(FOR THE BAY VIEWS)



EAT HERE
ST. ANDREW'S ST BISTRO
(FOR THE EUROPEAN TWIST
ON LOCAL PRODUCE)



VISIT HERE
BARBARA HEPWORTH MUSEUM
(FOR THE AMAZING SCULPTURES)



EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

AVOID THE CROWDS AND take the hassle out of Christmas this year. We've hand-selected our favourite suppliers to help make feeding your guests a little easier.



TRADITIONALLY CURED HAMS

Hams from Wiltshire, Shropshire and York, baked or roasted, sliced or on the bone are all available from this family-owned business with a Royal warrant. Dukeshill has only ever used traditional curing methods since they started out over 25 years ago.

0845 3700 129 | www.dukeshillham.co.uk



REPLENISH THE WINE CELLAR

After working for 2 vineyards in Bordeaux, Mark Chamberlain set up on his own in Gloucestershire. Finding wines of great quality and exceptional value, Mark sources wine for everything from weeknight suppers to special occasion treats, and he'll deliver to your door.

01285 750705 | www.chamberlainwines.co.uk



SWEET TREATS

The Chocolate Society is a small, artisan, and award-winning, chocolate company in rural Somerset, using only the finest French Valrhona chocolate. Be tempted by the likes of Cocoa Dusted Salt Caramelised Hazelnuts, Chocolate Honeycomb and Marc De Champagne Truffles - we can't get enough!

01963 824366 | www.chocolate.co.uk



HAND-MADE CHEESES

If you can't get to The Fine Cheese Co. in Walcot Street, Bath to buy your Stilton or cloth-wrapped Cheddar, go online instead or call to speak to their knowledgeable staff. As well as stocking over a hundred hand-made British cheeses, they also import from Europe. Pick the perfect deli item for your winter picnic and give the family cheese enthusiast a gift they'll really love with a hamper.

01225 448748 | www.finecheese.co.uk



FRESHLY CAUGHT

Order the same quality seafood as Michelin-starred chefs from Wing of St Mawes - The Cornish Fishmonger, an independent and specialist fishmonger. From fresh fish boxes with the best selections of the day to scallops and oysters from the morning catch, everything is sourced from local fishermen in Cornwall and South Devon and delivered before midday the next day.

01726 862489 | www.thecornishfishmonger.co.uk



HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CAKES

Ursula Evans' award-winning fruitcakes won't be found in supermarkets. Every single rich, fruity and moreish Christmas cake is homemade. True to tradition, Ursula soaks the fruits in brandy, bakes the cake slowly and feeds it with brandy during maturing. Sent in round tins tied with ribbons, they're the perfect gifts.

01743 860306 | www.mycottagekitchen.co.uk

WIN

OUR CHRISTMAS HAMPER WORTH £200

WIN A LUXURY HAMPER packed full of sweet treats, cured meats and fine wine. We have 10 to give away worth £200. Simply fill in your details and we'll pick the winners by 10th December, ensuring you'll have it in time for Christmas.



Simply enter online at crewclothing.co.uk/christmashamper

CLOSES 10TH DECEMBER 2015 | TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY